

In the Claims:

1. – 15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) A method for enhancing the intestinal absorption of a drug in an animal, comprising orally administering to said animal an oral formulation, comprising:

(a) a first population of carrier particles comprising said drug and a bioadhesive compound; and

(b) a second population of carrier particles comprising a penetration enhancer.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said animal is a mammal.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said mammal is a human.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said first population of carrier particles and said second population of carrier particles are administered separately.

20. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said first population of carrier particles and said second population of carrier particles are administered in a single dosage form.

21. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of a protein, peptide, nucleic acid, oligonucleotide, peptide hormone, antibiotic, antimicrobial agent, vasoconstrictor, cardiovascular drug, vasodilator, enzyme, bone metabolism controlling agent, steroid hormone, antihypertensive, non-steroidal antiinflammatory agent, antihistamine, antitussive, expectorant, chemotherapeutic agent, sedative, antidepressant, beta-blocker, analgesic and angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor.

22. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said penetration enhancer is selected from the group consisting of a fatty acid, bile acid, chelating agent and non-chelating non-surfactant.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said bioadhesive is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic polymers, poly(acrylic acid), tragacanth, cellulose, polyethyleneoxide cellulose derivatives, karyo gum, starch, gelatin pectin, latex, chitosan, sodium alginate and a receptor-binding peptide.

24. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein said oligonucleotide is an antisense oligonucleotide.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said oligonucleotide has SEQ ID NO: 1.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein said bioadhesive comprises a polyacrylic polymer ~~Carbopol 934 NF~~.

27. (currently amended) The method of claims 26 wherein said bioadhesive further comprises a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose ~~Methocel E4M~~.